

Application No. 10/649633
Amendment dated 1 June 2004
Reply to Office Action of 3 March 2004

Page 15 of 18

REMARKS

In the Specification

The Applicant has amended the text of the Specification to correct typographical errors, for clarity and to accommodate the drawing requested by the Examiner. The Applicant submits that the amendments to the Specification are fully supported by the Specification as originally filed and add no new matter to the application.

In the Drawings

The Applicant has added new Figure 1 as requested by the Examiner under 37 C.F.R. §1.81. The Applicant submits Figure 1 includes no new subject matter and is supported by the Specification as originally filed.

In the Claims

Claims 1-25 are pending after this amendment.

The Applicant has amended the originally filed claims 1-6 for clarity and to make claims 2-6 depend from claim 1. The amendments made to the originally filed claims 1-6 are not made to distinguish prior art cited by the Examiner. The Applicant has also added new claims 7-25 for which it seeks patent protection.

Claims 1-6

The Examiner has cited US Patent No. 5,714,291 (Marinello et al.) in relation to claim 1. The Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 patentably distinguishes Marinello et al.

As understood by the Applicant, Marinello et al. discloses a system for authenticating printed or reproduced documents which involves mixing conventional toner particles with submicron ultraviolet sensitive particles that exhibit detectable characteristics in response to ultraviolet radiation. As taught at column 1, line 64 to column 2, line 2, the

Application No. 10/649633
Amendment dated 1 June 2004
Reply to Office Action of 3 March 2004

Page 16 of 18

Marinello et al. method involves "providing a toner material that emits light in response to ultraviolet radiation, printing a document using said material and a laser printer or photocopier ..." The Marinello et al. system involves mixing ultraviolet sensitive particles with toner particles and then printing documents using the toner mixture. Marinello et al. is akin to the prior art referred to in the Background section of this application which involves mixing authentication material with ink and subsequently using the mixture of ink and authentication material to print a document.

In contrast, claim 1 recites "after applying ink to the article, dispensing the authentication material in powder form over the article before the ink is fully cured". The Applicant submits that Marinello et al. fails to teach or suggest this combination of features. More specifically, the Marinello et al. system involves mixing ultraviolet sensitive particles with toner particles and then printing documents using the toner mixture. Marinello et al. does not disclose applying ink and then "after applying ink to the article, dispensing the authentication material in powder form ..." as recited in claim 1. As discussed in the specification of the instant application, this feature is advantageous relative to mixing authentication material with ink for at least the reason that dispensing authentication material in powder form after the application of ink allows for authentication with smaller amounts of authentication material.

For the reasons set out above, the Applicant submits that claim 1 patentably distinguishes Marinello et al. As claims 2-6 now depend from claim 1, the Applicant submits that claims 2-6 are also allowable over Marinello et al. and all of the other prior art of record.

Claims 7-15

Claim 7 recites the combination of "applying ink to the printed article; and, before the ink applied to the printed article is cured, applying a powder comprising an authentication material atop the ink". As discussed above, the Marinello et al. system involves mixing ultraviolet sensitive particles with toner particles and then printing documents using the toner mixture. Marinello et al. does not disclose applying ink and then "applying a powder comprising an authentication material atop the ink" as recited in

Application No. 10/649633
Amendment dated 1 June 2004
Reply to Office Action of 3 March 2004

Page 17 of 18

claim 7. For this reason, the Applicant submits that claim 37 patentably distinguishes Marinello et al. As claims 8-15 depend from claim 7, the Applicant submits that claims 8-15 are also allowable over Marinello et al. and all of the other prior art of record.

Claims 16-23

Claim 16 recites the combination of "mixing an authentication material with a spray powder for preventing printed articles from adhering to other objects to form a powder mixture; applying ink to the printed article; and prior to the ink curing on the printed article, applying the powder mixture to the printed article atop the ink." As discussed above, Marinello et al. fails to teach or suggest this combination of features. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that claim 16 patentably distinguishes Marinello et al. Claims 17-23, which depend from claim 16, are submitted to further distinguish Marinello et al. and the other prior art of record.

Claims 24-25

Claim 24 recites a "powder mixture comprising a mixture of an authentication material and a spray powder for preventing printed articles from adhering to other objects wherein the authentication material and the spray powder comprise particles having dimensions in a range of 20-50 μ m". As discussed above, Marinello et al. teaches mixing ultraviolet sensitive particles with toner particles and then printing documents using the authentication material and toner mixture. Marinello et al. does not disclose or suggest combining authentication material with a "spray powder for preventing printed articles from adhering to other objects" as recited in claim 24. Furthermore, claim 24 recites that the authentication material and the spray powder "comprise particles having dimensions in a range of 20-50 μ m". Marinello et al. specifically teaches away from this feature of claim 24 at column 5, lines 10-15, where it is suggested that the toner particles and UV sensitive particles have submicron dimensions.

For these reasons, the Applicant submits that claim 24 patentably distinguishes Marinello et al. and the other prior art of record. As claim 25 depends from claim 24, the Applicant submits that claim 25 is also allowable.

Application No. 10/649633
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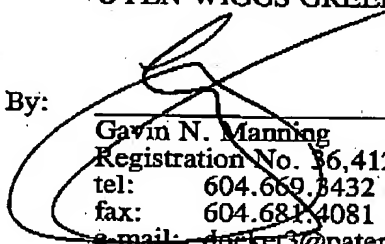
Page 18 of 18

Conclusions

In view of the amendments and arguments presented above, the Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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